

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 OES-07 HA-05 AID-05 SS-15
INR-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /067 W
-----033327 232243Z /70
O 231945Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1311
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09624

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNFPA, UNDP, VN
SUBJECT: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - UNFPA COUNTRY
AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM

REF: (A) STATE 156826; (B) GENEVA 9340

1. SUMMARY: THE COUNTRY AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM WAS PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL WITH AN AMENDMENT REMOVING FROM PROGRAMMING DOLS 3.4 MILLION'S WORTH OF PROJECTS RELATED TO POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION. THIS SUM WILL BE RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS PRIVATELY GAVE HIS ASSURANCES THAT REPROGRAMMING WILL NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVE COMPONENTS TO WHICH USG OBJECTED. UNFPA WILL COORDINATE WITH STATE/IO FORMAL REPLY TO MAYNES/SALAS LETTER.

2. CANADA, FRG, UK EXPLICITLY CAUTIONED UNFPA ON VN ISSUE WHILE JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND IMPLICITLY WARNED ABOUT NEED TO ENSURE VOLUNTARY COOPERATION WITH REDISTRIBUTION. USSR AND SIERRA LEONE SPECIFICALLY PRAISED SUPPORT TO VIETNAM. HAVING SECURED SALAS' AGREEMENT TO INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON REDISTRIBUTION PROGRAMMING, USDEL BELIEVES USG MUST DEVELOP COORDINATED POLICY AND RELATED STRATEGY IN
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ADVANCE OF DISCUSSION WITH UNFPA PROBABLY IN FALL DURING UNGA.

3. IN HIS FORMAL STATEMENT TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS WENT "OFF TEXT" TO MAKE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

QUOTE. THE PROJECT COMPONENT ON 'POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW ECONOMIC ZONES' WOULD BE REVISED WITH FAMILY PLANNING AND POPULATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ESTIMATED AT AN APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF DOLS 3.4 MILLION. AT THE SAME TIME THE PROGRAMME RESERVE WILL BE INCREASED FROM DOLS 1.4 MILLION TO DOLS 4.8 MILLION MAINTAINING THE TOTAL PROGRAMME LEVEL OF DOLS 17 MILLION. AFTER THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM PROGRAMME THE RESERVE. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON UNFPA SUPPORT TO POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHEN PROGRAMMING IN THIS AREA. UNQUOTE.

4. U.S. STATEMENT CONTAINED FOLLOWING PERTINENT COMMENTS:

QUOTE: IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT TRENDS IN APPROACHES TO POPULATION PROBLEMS AND THE CORRESPONDING RESPONSES IN PROGRAMMING OF ASSISTANCE ARE TESTING THE FUND'S MANDATE TO ASSIST IN POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION. WITHOUT DEBATING THE MERITS OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS, OR THE MOTIVE OF SUCH PROGRAMMING, MY DELEGATION WOULD URGE THAT THIS MANDATE AND THE QUESTION OF HOW IT MIGHT BEST BE IMPLEMENTED BE FURTHER EXAMINED CAREFULLY AND FRANKLY, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL

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QUESTION OF RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED. TO THIS END, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE COMING MONTHS SO THAT UNFPA WOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR VIEWS. WE NOTE THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIMSELF APPRECIATES THE NEED FOR GREAT CAUTION IN THIS RESPECT.

MY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SEVERAL COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER AT BUCHAREST. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WILL ONLY RECALL HERE MY EARLIER REMARKS CONCERNING THE NEED TO EXAMINE THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION. UNQUOTE.

FULL TEXT OF SALAS AND US STATEMENTS BEING POUCHED.

5. CANADA, FRG AND UK, IN SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO VIETNAM PROGRAM, WARNED UNFPA ON THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT ANY POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION ACTIVITY HAVE VOLUNTARY COOPERATION AND WELCOMED THE SUGGESTION (BY U.S.) FOR CONSULTA-

TIONS. CANADA URGED CAUTION IN APPROACHING A NEW PROGRAMMING DEPARTURE. FRG, IN CALLING UPON UNFPA TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR VOLUNTARY NATURE OF REDISTRIBUTION, CITED UNGA RESOLUTION AND NOTED SALAS' MODIFICATION OF COUNTRY AGREEMENT. UK PICKED UP US REMARKS ANENT AVOIDANCE BY UNFPA OF INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT FIELD AND ADDED THAT RELOCATION ACTIVITY SHOULD BE A RARE EXCEPTION TO POPULATION PROGRAMMING. UK REP (WINDSOR) ADDED THAT FUND'S MANDATE SHOULDN'T EXTEND TO RESETTLEMENT COSTS

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AND THAT VOLUNTARY NATURE OF REDISTRIBUTION WAS ESSENTIAL. HE CALLED FOR A FRESH LOOK AT THIS ISSUE THROUGH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS.

6. NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN RESPECTIVELY ENTERED CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION, CITED THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION AND URGED RESTRICTING UNFPA INVOLVEMENT TO PLANNING ONLY, NOT IMPLEMENTATION OF RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS. JAPAN APPROVED THE COUNTRY PROGRAMS TAKING NOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ("OFF-TEXT") REMARKS. ONLY THE USSR AND SIERRA LEONE EXPLICITLY PRAISED THE SUPPORT BEING GIVEN TO VIETNAM THROUGH THE COUNTRY AGREEMENT.

7. IN A LENGTHY AND PEDANTIC REPLY CITING THE ORIGINS OF AND ELABORATIONS ON THE MANDATE FOR ASSISTANCE IN POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HALVOR GILLE MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS (FULL TEXT OF UNFPA POSITION BEING POUCHED):

QUOTE: THE SUPPORT OF UNFPA FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION SHOULD IN THE

VIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAINLY BE IN THE AREAS
OF DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION,
PLANNING, TRAINING AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH. SUCH
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ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTINUE FOR THE TIME BEING TO BE
OF A RATHER MODEST OVERALL MAGNITUDE AND NOT REDUCE
DRASTICALLY THE PROPORTION OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE
PARTICULARLY FOR FAMILY PLANNING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL, OF COURSE, FOLLOW THE
DIRECTIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. WE ARE PREPARED TO HOLD INFORMAL
CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL BOTH FROM
DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS WITH
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED THROUGH
IACC AND INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE MORE
CLEARLY THE TYPES OF PROGRAMMES THE FUND MAY SUPPORT
IN THIS AREA IN THE FUTURE.

8. DURING PRIVATE LUNCH WITH DELOFF GLAZER, SALAS GAVE
HIS ASSURANCE THAT IN FUTURE TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE ON
REPROGRAMMING THE SUM TRANSFERRED TO THE PROGRAM RESERVE
UNDER THE COUNTRY AGREEMENT HE WOULD MANEUVER SO AS TO
AVOID ANY REPETITION OF PROJECTS TO WHICH U.S. (AND UK)
OBJECTED. HE EXPRESSED FULL AWARENESS OF U.S. CONCERNS
AND SENSITIVITIES AS WELL AS APPRECIATION FOR U.S. DESIRE
TO AVOID DEVELOPMENTS LIKELY TO JEOPARDIZE FUTURE SUPPORT
FOR THE FUND.

9. IN A RELATED ISSUE, UNFPA OFFICERS TOLD DELOFF THAT
SALAS WOULD COMMENCE WORK ON FORMAL REPLY TO ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MAYNES UPON RETURNING TO NEW YORK IN EARLY
JULY. DRAFT REPLY WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH USG TO ENSURE
THAT IT FULLY MEETS OUR NEEDS.

10. COMMENT: U.S. STATEMENT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY FUND
OFFICIALS AS WELL AS BY OTHER DELEGATIONS. U.K. SUPPORT
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WAS EXCELLENT AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SUCCESSFUL
RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM. JAPANESE WERE PALPABLY
RELIEVED THAT FINAL OUTCOME AVOIDED THEIR DIRECT INVOLVE-
MENT. NO DELEGATION QUESTIONED THE AMENDMENT TO THE VN
PROGRAM NOR THE TWO-DAY DELAY IN TAKING UP ITEM 18.
SALAS IS NOW QUITE AMENABLE TO HOLDING INFORMAL DISCUS-

SIONS ON THE REDISTRIBUTION MANDATE AND ITS PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD WANT TO MEET WITH VARIOUS DONOR REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE 33RD UNGA, POSSIBLY IN OCTOBER. USDEL BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR USG TO DEVELOP A WELL-COORDINATED POLICY AND RELATED STRATEGY ON ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION ACTIVITIES IN ADVANCE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUDGETS, POPULATION MOVEMENTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA09624
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0034
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780627/aaaaawwl.tel
Line Count: 232
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d08aa182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 156826, 78 GENEVA 9340
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2231174
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - UNFPA COUNTRY AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM
TAGS: SPOP, VN, UNFPA, UNDP
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d08aa182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014